THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 21st November 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI N. GOPALA MENON) in the Chair.

I.—SWEARING-IN OF A NEW MEMBER.

Sri A. M. Rathnaswami was sworn-in.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Collection of fees in elementary schools

* 2648 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the conditions under which managements are allowed to collect fees in elementary schools;

(*b*) how many elementary schools in the State are collecting fees; and

(*c*) the rate of fee collected?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No specific conditions have been prescribed for the collection of school fees in elementary schools. The collection of fees in elementary schools is largely left to the discretion of the managements.

(*b*) About 1,120.

(*c*) There is no uniform rate. It varies from place to place.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know, Sir, whether the fee collected is taken into consideration in making grants to these institutions?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : In respect of elementary schools the grant is being paid, based on the number of teachers engaged and then 15 per cent is allowed for expenses for administration. The fee collected is not taken into consideration.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Sir, in view of the fact that no specific conditions have been prescribed with regard to the levy of fees in elementary schools, are the Government aware that managers of certain aided elementary schools levy fees beyond the paying capacity of the people and not in conformity with the principles of the Madras Educational Rules as a result of which some of poor people are not in a position to send their children to the schools? I can quote so many instances. Will the Government enquire into the matter and see that such practices are stopped? Will the Hon. Minister also be pleased to state whether

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the Government have taken any steps to implement the provisions of the Constitution wherein it is stated that elementary education will be free?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, in all State-managed schools and schools run by the local bodies, no school fee is levied. It is only in respect of schools run by managements that the question of levy of fees arises. We cannot certainly compel them to run the schools and not to collect any fees whatsoever. The question whether any limit should be fixed with reference to the collection of fees as in the case of the high schools is under the consideration of the Government. When we consider the Report of the Elementary Education Committee, this aspect will be taken into consideration.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : இப்பொழுது இரண்டணாவிலிருந்து ஒரு ரூபாய்வரையிலும் சம்பளமாகப் பல பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் வசூல் செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் நூறு ரூபாய்க்குக் குறைவான வருமானம் உள்ளவர்களின் குழந்தைகளுக்குச் சம்பளம் கிடையாது என்று இப்பொழுது உத்திரவு போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதனால் மானேஜ்மெண்டுப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்கு ஏற்படும் நஷ்டத்தை ஈடு செய்ய சர்க்கார் உதவிப் பணம் கொடுக்கும் போது ஒரே ரீதியில் கணக்கெடுத்து இந்தப் பணத்தைக் கொடுப்பார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : ஒவ்வொரு பள்ளிக்கூடத்திற்கும் எந்தெந்த விகிதத்தில் சம்பளப் பணம் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று தனி சர்க்கார் உத்திரவு இருக்கிறது. அதில் தனிப்பட்ட மானேஜ்மெண்டு பள்ளிக்கூடம், முனிசிபல் பள்ளிக்கூடம் இவற்றுக்காக ஒரு விகிதம் நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதன்பிரகாரம்தான் இந்தச் சலுகை கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY : Sir, there could have been some justification for permitting the elementary school managers to levy fees when the Government were not paying the full amount of the salary of the teachers. But since the Government are now paying the full amount of the salary of the teachers as grant, will the Government consider the desirability of withdrawing that permission? May I know whether the Government are reviewing the situation now?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : But there are vested interests in this matter and there are also advocates who support those vested interests. I know that these management schools are making a good deal of profit in running the elementary schools and this aspect will be taken into consideration in coming to an ultimate decision in this matter.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, is it a fact that the association of the aided school managers waited upon the Hon. Minister in deputation and represented to him that the compensation paid by the department is scandalously negligible when compared to the fee that has been already collected? May I know what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir, a deputation waited on me and made representations in the matter. But I pointed out to them that in many of the schools they have been

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making profits and certainly Government cannot be compensating them in respect of the profits they have been already making. If there is loss in the management of the schools, then there may be a case for review of the scales which we have laid down in respect of the payment of compensation, but when a large amount of profits is being made by these institutions, certainly there is no case to increase the compensation.

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM : கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்ன பதிலிலிருந்து இந்த உதவி பெற்றுவரும் ஆரம்பப் பாடசாலைகள் தனி நபர்களால் நிர்வகிக்கப்பட்டு வருவது லாபத்திற்காக என்பது நன்கு தெரிகிறது. சர்க்கார் அவற்றிற்கு கல்வி மானியம் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். மானேஜ்மெண்டு மானியம் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அப்படியிருக்க குழந்தைகளிடத்தில் அவர்கள் சம்பளம் வசூலிக்கவேண்டிய அவசியம் இல்லை. ஆகவே தனிப்பட்ட நபர்களால், அல்லது ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களால் நடத்தப்பட்டுவரும் பாடசாலைகளையெல்லாம் சர்க்காரே எடுத்து நடத்த முடிவு செய்வார்களா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : இதைப்பற்றிய விஷயம் சர்க்கார் பரிசீலனையில் இருந்து வருகிறது. ஆரம்பக் கல்வி கமிஷன் ரிப்போர்ட்டிலும் இதைப்பற்றிய சிபார்சு இருக்கிறது. இவற்றையெல்லாம் பரிசீலனை செய்த பிறகே ஒரு முடிவுக்கு வரவேண்டும்.

Sri S. PANCHAKSHARAM : There are certain aided institutions which collect fees from parents whose monthly income is less than Rs. 100 and parents are also willing to send their boys to such institutions where fees are being collected. Have the Government got any views in this matter?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, we have made an announcement that education will be free to all children whose parents' income is less than Rs. 100. If in spite of that, certain individuals are willing to pay any sum to some other individuals, we cannot stand in the way.

Block Development Scheme

* 2649 *Q*.—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) (i) the number of roads constructed in the villages with one-fourth contribution by local villagers;

(ii) the extent of roads constructed and the estimated cost thereof;

(iii) the number of works executed with the contribution made by the concerned local panchayats;

(iv) the number of wells sunk with subsidy from State funds;

(v) the number of school buildings constructed and their estimates;

(vi) the number of libraries and reading rooms opened and their cost under the Block Development Schemes in the State in the year 1953–54; and